



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,287	09/16/2003	William R. Holland	09430/267001	3224
7590	05/27/2005			EXAMINER WALKER, ZAKIYA NICOLE
Jonathan P. Osha Rosenthal & Osha L.L.P. Suite 2800 1221 McKinney Street Houston, TX 77010			ART UNIT 3672	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 05/27/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/663,287	HOLLAND, WILLIAM R.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Zakiya N. Walker	3672		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01302004

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .

5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. Figure s 2A-2C should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-27, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Winkle.

Van Winkle discloses an apparatus that includes a fastener for coupling blowout preventers in a stack, comprising: an elongated shaft having a first end 47 and a second end 44; and a head disposed proximate the first end of the elongated shaft and adapted to be retained in a recess 50 in a connecting face of a first blowout preventer 13,

wherein the second end of the elongated shaft is adapted to be coupled to a second blowout preventer 14. With respect to depending claims 2-8, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed including a head ring 51, a nut, a threaded section 46, a second head 44, and a grip section. With respect to claim 10, the reference discloses an apparatus that includes a coupled blowout preventer stack, comprising: a first blowout preventer 13 having a plurality of recesses 50 disposed in a connecting face of the first blowout preventer; a second blowout preventer 14 in a vertical arrangement with the first blowout preventer; and a plurality of fasteners each having an elongated shaft with a first end 47 and a second end 44, the plurality of fasteners each comprising a head proximate the first end of the elongated shaft, wherein the heads are disposed in the plurality of recesses in the first blowout preventer and wherein the second ends of the plurality of fasteners are coupled to the second blowout preventer. With respect to depending claims 11, 12, and 14-19, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed including a threaded section 46, a grip section, retaining collars (a retaining ring 51 in groove), and a plurality of slots. With respect to claim 20, the reference discloses a method that includes a method for coupling two blowout preventers in a blowout comprising: preventer stack, coupling a first end of each of a plurality fasteners to a first blowout preventer 13; positioning a second blowout preventer 14 in a vertical arrangement with the first blowout preventer so that a head on a second end of the each of the plurality of fasteners is received in one of a plurality of recesses in the second blowout preventer; coupling a plurality of retaining collars 51 to the second blowout preventer so that the heads of the plurality of fasteners are retained in the

plurality of recesses in the second blowout preventer; and tightening the connection. With respect to depending claims 21 and 22, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed including rotating the collars and fasteners. With respect to claim 23, the reference discloses an apparatus that includes a fastener for coupling blowout preventers in a stack, comprising: a first member 47 having a first head adapted to be retained in a recess in a first blowout preventer 13; and a second member 44 adapted to be coupled to a second blowout preventer, wherein the first member and the second member are configured to be coupled to each other. With respect to depending claims 24-27, 29, and 30, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed including a second head, threaded engagement 46, a grip section, and female/male threads.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 17-19, 23, 24, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schaeper.

Schaeper discloses an apparatus that includes an apparatus that includes a fastener for coupling blowout preventers in a stack 10, comprising: an elongated shaft 18 having a first end (at 26) and a second end (bottom of 18); and a head 26 disposed proximate the first end of the elongated shaft and adapted to be retained in a recess 28 in a connecting face of a first blowout preventer 14, wherein the second end of the elongated shaft is adapted to be coupled to a second blowout preventer 14. With respect to depending claims 2, 4, 7, and 8, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed including a second head (bottom of 18) and a grip section. With respect to claim 10, the reference discloses an apparatus that includes a coupled blowout preventer stack, comprising: a first blowout preventer 14 having a plurality of recesses

28, 30 disposed in a connecting face of the first blowout preventer; a second blowout preventer 14 in a vertical arrangement with the first blowout preventer; and a plurality of fasteners each having an elongated shaft 18 with a first end 26 and a second end (bottom of 18), the plurality of fasteners each comprising a head 26 proximate the first end of the elongated shaft, wherein the heads are disposed in the plurality of recesses in the first blowout preventer and wherein the second ends of the plurality of fasteners are coupled to the second blowout preventer. With respect to depending claims 12, and 17-19, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed including a grip section and a plurality of slots. With respect to claim 23, the reference discloses an apparatus that includes a fastener for coupling blowout preventers in a stack 10, comprising: a first member 18, 26 having a first head 26 adapted to be retained in a recess 28 in a first blowout preventer 14; and a second member (bottom of 18) adapted to be coupled to a second blowout preventer 14, wherein the first member and the second member are configured to be coupled to each other. With respect to depending claims 24 and 27, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed including a second head (bottom of 18) and a grip section.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 9, 13, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Winkle or Schaeper alone.

Each reference discloses an apparatus as stated above. However, the references fail to teach a hexagonal grip section as called for in the claims.

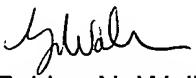
Absent some showing, which is convincing of some significance of a particular configuration, the claimed configuration nothing more than one of numerous configurations a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing mating surfaces in the article. In re Dailey, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976). Therefore, it would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have substituted a hexagonal grip section for a cylindrical one in order to provide the proper mating surface for a hexagonal bore.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zakiya N. Walker whose telephone number is (571) 272-7039. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (571) 272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Zakiya N. Walker  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3672

zw  
May 24, 2005